

The Next Generation Nuclear Plant Project is developing nuclear technology to provide high-temperature process heat that can be used as a substitute for the burning of fossil fuels for a wide range of commercial applications.

## Key INL programs doing well in new funding cycle

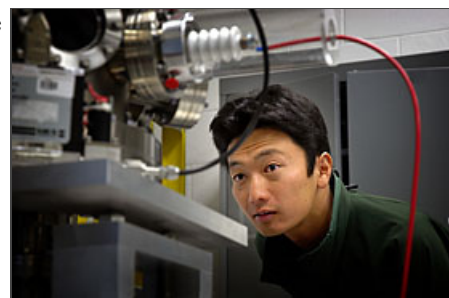
by [Glen Tait](#), *INL Communications & Public Affairs*

The Congressional appropriations process can be a nail-biter for employers such as Idaho National Laboratory that are funded primarily through federal appropriations. But with Congress in the process of completing some of the funding bills for fiscal year 2010, INL programs are getting favorable consideration. Key programs fared well in the main funding bill that is now headed to the President's desk.

The energy and water appropriations bill, which is ready for President Obama's signature, funds the [Department of Energy](#). Overall, the FY2010 energy and water appropriations bill makes a strong commitment to near- and longer-term nuclear energy use, and it continues the effort to revitalize nuclear energy research and development facilities at INL and other DOE labs.

Specifically, the bill:

- Provides \$105 million for the "NP2010" program, which supports license applications for new nuclear power plants,
  - Provides \$169 million for the [Next Generation Nuclear Plant](#),
  - Directs DOE to report on the status of that project and reiterates the requirement for industry to share costs for the NNGP project,
  - Provides \$10 million to support research to extend the life of existing nuclear power plants,
  - Provides \$22 million for a modeling and simulation hub to address nuclear R&D challenges,
  - Allocates \$136 million for fuel cycle R&D to assess the best uses and disposition paths for used fuel.
  - Designates \$173 million to support the Idaho infrastructure budget including not less than \$12 million for the [Advanced Test Reactor](#) life extension program.
- If passed, the funding proposal would support advanced nuclear R&D work at INEL.*



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***A key element of the NGNP Fuel Development and Qualification Program is the development of TRISO pellets that use more of the fuel when producing nuclear energy.***

In other areas where INL has strong capabilities, the FY2010 energy and water appropriations bill provides \$220 million for biomass and biorefinery systems research and development; \$311 million for vehicle technologies in the renewable energy account; \$40 million for the energy delivery systems cyber security program, which improves grid reliability; and a new \$20 million program in the fossil energy arena to support lab, industry and university collaboration in the development of unconventional fuels. The budget for DOE's Office of Science includes \$1 million for [Center for Advanced Energy Studies](#) (CAES) equipment. Idaho environmental cleanup projects received \$460 million in the FY2010 bill, including \$19.5 million to treat sodium-bonded fuel at INL.

In bills not yet completed, the House and Senate defense and homeland security appropriations bills include additional funds to continue important electric grid cyber security research at INL.

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